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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 002331

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/13/2013

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [CVIS](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: TFIZ01: AMMAN SITREP 37 (4/16 1600 LOCAL)

REF: AMMAN 2321

Classified By: DCM Gregory L. Berry for reasons 1.5 (B)(D).

General Overview

[11.](#) (C) Embassy staff are allowed greater freedom of movement although restrictions are still in place.

Consular Issues

[12.](#) (SBU) On April 16 ICRC contacted Embassy to report an AMCIT in Baghdad had approached their office there with a request that he be returned to the US. He also requested the same assistance for his wife and daughter, who are not AMCITS, and he claimed he has filed immigration petitions for his wife and daughter in Amman. We are in the process of verification.

GOJ Actions/Statements

[13.](#) (C) Nothing new to report.

Security

[14.](#) (U) Situation remains stable; no new developments to report.

Economic and Trade Developments

[15.](#) (U) Nothing new to report.

Refugee/Humanitarian Issues

[16.](#) (C) UNHCR reported April 16 that 220 persons currently are being held in "no-man's land" at the Jordan-Iraq border. Six Syrians reportedly arrived the night of April 15/16. In an April 16 telcon, the Ambassador urged Minister of State Shaheer Bak to allow these groups to remain in "no-man's land" until an appropriate solution can be found and reminded the GOJ of its obligation to grant temporary admission and protection to all legitimate asylum seekers. He also urged the GOJ to allow seven Iraqis and four Palestinians to move from "no-man's land" into the Ruweished camps, as had been pledged to UNHCR on April 15. Bak said the GOJ would allow the 200-plus Iraqis to remain in "no-man's land" until a solution could be found and had directed GOJ authorities to assist in the construction of additional humanitarian infrastructure in "no-man's land." Bak also promised to look into the case of the seven Iraqis and four Palestinians.

[17.](#) (SBU) IOM reports that increasing numbers of TCNs are entering Jordan: 75 on April 15 and 65 by 12:00 pm today. Recent TCN arrivals report that Iraqis in Baghdad are threatening foreign workers and pressuring them to leave, telling them that they were guests of Saddam and no longer are welcome in Baghdad. IOM expects TCN arrivals to increase still further and is increasing staff at the border and Ruweished.

[18.](#) (C) According to PLO Refugee Affairs Rep Mohammed Abu Bakr, 60-70 Palestinian families were expelled from their homes in Baghdad on April 14. They reportedly have gathered at a park. It is unclear whether they were expelled by returning landlords or for political reasons. (Long-term Palestinian residents of Iraq are viewed by some Iraqis as supporters of the Saddam regime and hence are vulnerable to political reprisals.) We have alerted the ICRC of this matter.

Press

[19.](#) (U) Media reaction on Syria-USG "standoff" indicates some

editorial writers believe the USG is "bluffing." (reftel).
GNEHM